

Highway 23 Four Lane Gaps

Overview

The Highway 23 Corridor extends across the state of Minnesota from Interstate 90 to Interstate 35 and beyond. It connects many cities including Pipestone, Marshall, Granite Falls, Willmar and St. Cloud. Locally and regionally, Highway 23 serves as a major connection between the area's residents, employment and service centers as well as a key recreational and tourist access route. Tourist travel along the corridor creates high seasonal and weekend traffic peaks. Under the Interregional Corridor classification system, Highway 23 is classified as a Medium Priority Interregional Corridor.

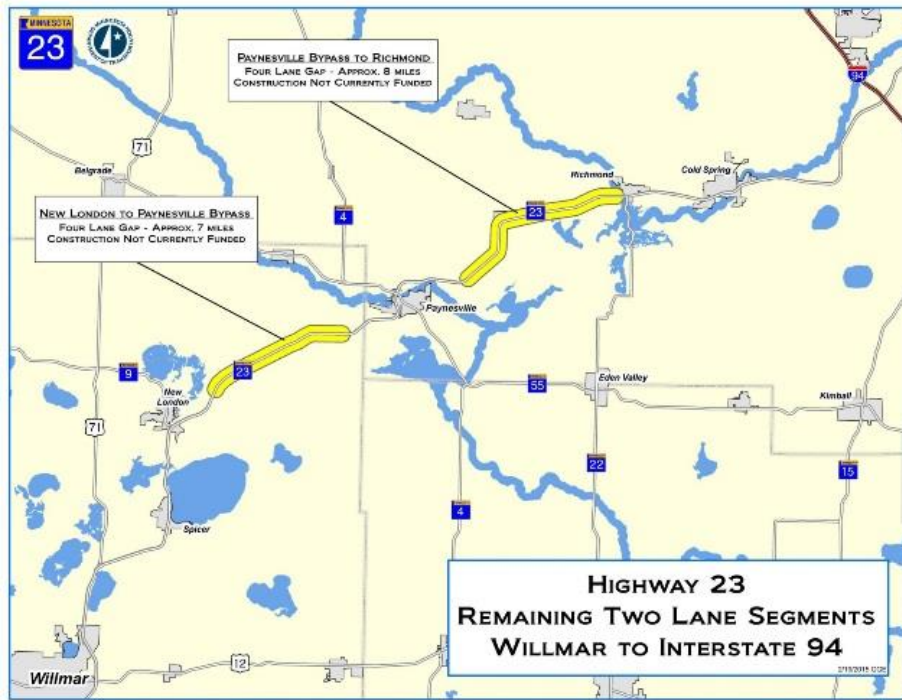
Highway 23 is also an important freight route. District 8 recently completed a Manufacturer's Perspective on Transportation Study that interviewed manufacturers and carriers in Southwest and West Central Minnesota to determine their most important transportation issues. Highway 23 was frequently mentioned as a critical connection to deliver goods to national and international markets.

The segment of Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 is a distance of approximately 53 miles. Of those 53 miles, all but approximately 15 miles have been constructed as a four lane roadway. The two gaps in the four-lane are between New London and Paynesville, and between Paynesville and Richmond.

Preliminary cost estimates have been calculated for these projects. Cost estimates shown include inflation to Fiscal Year 2017; the total project cost estimate may not add up due to the rounding of numbers.

MnDOT began the environmental review and layout development for the New London to Paynesville segment in summer 2014 and for the Paynesville to Richmond segment in summer 2015. Once the environmental reviews and layouts are complete, right-of-way acquisition and detail design could begin if funds become available. Currently, there are no plans for constructing the four lane, as there is no funding available for the construction at this time.

Project Area



Estimated Project Cost

Highway 23	Construction	Wetland mitigation, utility agreements, detour costs	Environmental review, surveys, engineering, contract administration, etc.	Right-of-Way	Total Project Cost Estimate
New London to Paynesville	\$37M to \$49M	\$2M to \$2.5M	\$7M to \$10M	\$4M to \$6M	\$50M to \$70M
Paynesville to Richmond	\$49M to \$65M	\$2M to \$3.5M	\$10M to \$13M	\$12M to \$17M	\$74M to \$98M

For More Information

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